

GOVERNORS PROD CONGRESS, CANDIDATES OVER CLIMATE

By Frank Davies

WASHINGTON - Hoping to add to his growing environmental legacy, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is trying to turn up the heat on Congress and presidential candidates to do more about global warming.

Schwarzenegger and Al Gore, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for sounding the alarm on climate change, are discussing plans for a forum on the issue in New Hampshire next month. The goal is to attract presidential contenders in both parties just before that state's primary, a spokesman for the governor, Adam Mendelsohn, confirmed Friday.

And in an unusual TV ad campaign, Schwarzenegger and two other Western governors are prodding Congress to follow the lead of several states and adopt mandatory national limits on greenhouse gas emissions.

In a 30-second ad funded by Environmental Defense, a leading advocacy group, Schwarzenegger tells viewers that "climate change is a test of leadership" and urges support for congressional action.

Govs. Schwarzenegger, Brian Schweitzer of Montana and Jon Huntsman of Utah - each casually dressed, speaking in picturesque spots - remind viewers that states have taken measures to combat climate change. California's governor, referring to Congress, gets the tag line: "Now it's their turn."

The \$3 million ad campaign will begin Sunday in Washington, D.C., and 16 other media markets around the country. It's designed to pressure senators to support a far-reaching bill to cap greenhouse gas emissions that Sen. Barbara Boxer, a California Democrat, plans to bring up in the Environment Committee in early December.

It's no accident that the ad features two Republicans: Schwarzenegger and Huntsman. It shows that "this issue has become very bipartisan, embraced in many states," said Fred Krupp, president of Environmental Defense.

The ad links climate change to energy independence, with Schweitzer, standing alongside a stream, saying: "Solve this (global warming) and we help free America from its addiction to foreign oil. Ignore it and we're in real trouble."

The ad will run in 10 states, including three with Republican senators on the Environment Committee - Tennessee (Lamar Alexander), Ohio (George Voinovich) and Missouri (Kit Bond). The ad will not run in California, where Sens. Boxer and Dianne Feinstein have supported emissions controls.

Environmental Defense has worked closely with California officials on several environmental lawsuits and also was instrumental in putting together a coalition of advocacy, business and investment groups, called US-CAP, to push for mandatory emission controls.